

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005836

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ILO, ELAB, SZ

SUBJECT:US MEMBERSHIP IN ILO, ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES

REF: (A) STATE 306583; (B) CAIRO 62; (C) CAIRO 336;
(D) GENEVA 94(REPEATED TO CAIRO AND TEL AVIV AS STATE 5001)

1. DEPARTMENT DISAPPOINTED AT NEGATIVE GOE REACTION TO OUR
SUGGESTIONS FOR DIRECTING ISRAELI ISSUES INTO ILO DUE
PROCESS CHANNELS. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND GOE RELUCTANCE AT
THIS TIME TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ISSUE WHICH THEY BELIEVE
MIGHT AROUSE FURTHER ARAB CRITICISM OF EGYPT. UNFORTUNATE-
LY, GOE SUGGESTION FOR APPEAL BY G-77 TO US TO REJOIN ILO
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(REFTEL B) WITHOUT ACTION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES INVOLVED
WOULD NOT BE PERSUASIVE EVIDENCE THAT MAJOR CONCERNS WHICH
PROMPTED OUR WITHDRAWAL CAN BE RESOLVED.

2. REFTEL D PARA 3, REPEATED TO YOU FROM GENEVA, DESCRIBES
INITIATIVE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL
BLANCHARD TO DIRECT ISRAELI ISSUE INTO ILO DUE PROCESS

CHANNELS. THIS MAY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR GOE TO PLAY ROLE IN RESOLVING ISSUE WITHOUT TAKING LEAD AND RISKING CONFRONTATION WITH OTHER ARAB STATES. GOE SUPPORT FOR BLANCHARD'S EFFORTS TO BREAK SUPPOSED LINK BETWEEN TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY AND THE APPLICATION OF ILO CONVENTIONS

MAY BE CRITICAL. WE HOPE THAT GOE, THROUGH AMBASSADOR EL-SHAFEI IN GENEVA AND ELSEWHERE, WILL PROVIDE SUCH SUPPORT.

3. IN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE WITH BOUTROS GHALI AND OTHER GOE OFFICIALS, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THE US APPRECIATES THE OFFER OF THE GOE TO ASSIST IN THE PROCESS LEADING TO THE RETURN OF THE US TO THE ILO.

(B) WE ALSO APPRECIATE THE OFFER OF THE GOE TO SPONSOR AN APPEAL TO THE US BY THE G-77 AND OTHER MEMBERS TO RETURN TO THE ILO TO PARTICIPATE IN A THOROUGH APPRAISAL OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ORGANIZATION AND RATIONALIZATION OF THE ILO'S STANDING ORDERS. THE US SUPPORTS SUCH EFFORTS TO MEET THE CONCERNS OF ALL MEMBER NATIONS, SO THAT THE ILO CAN DEVOTE ITS ATTENTION TO ITS FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSES.

(C) UNFORTUNATELY, AN APPEAL BY MEMBER NATIONS FOR THE US TO RETURN TO THE ILO, WITHOUT SPECIFIC EVIDENCE THAT

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THE MAJOR CONCERNS WHICH LED TO OUR WITHDRAWAL HAD BEEN RESOLVED, WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT BY ITSELF TO PERMIT THE US TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO SUCH AN APPEAL.

(D) AS THE GOE IS AWARE, THE QUESTION OF DIRECTING ISSUES INVOLVING ISRAEL INTO THE DUE PROCESS CHANNELS OF THE ILO IS OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE US BOTH ON ITS MERITS AND BECAUSE OF DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON OTHER ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE ILO (E.G., FAILURE OF THE 1977 CONFERENCE TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS).

(E) WE UNDERSTAND AND FULLY APPRECIATE RELUCTANCE OF GOE TO INITIATE EFFORT WITH OTHER ARAB STATES TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE WHEN FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL IS IN THE BALANCE. WE ARE INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD WILL SOON TAKE INITIATIVE TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. GOE'S CONSTRUCTIVE ASSISTANCE IN DG'S EFFORTS WOULD BE OF GREAT VALUE. OUR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING MEANS OF RESOLVING TECHNICAL/LEGAL ISSUES INVOLVED ARE NOT EXHAUSTIVE. OTHER MEANS MAY BE AVAILABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF SAFE-

GUARDING ILO PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES.

(F) THE US THEREFORE HOPES THAT GOE WILL SUPPORT THE
DG'S EFFORTS. WE VALUE GOE'S COUNSEL IN ILO MATTERS AND
WOULD APPRECIATE CLOSE AND CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS.

4. FOR GENEVA: YOU SHOULD INFORM BLANCHARD OF OUR
CONSULTATIONS WITH GOE AND EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION AND
SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ISSUE. VANCE

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